

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 084998 TOSEC 030209
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DRAFTED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
APPROVED BY D:THE ACTING SECRETARY
S/S:TARNOFF

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S E C R E T STATE 084998 TOSEC 030209

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS-FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: U.S. PROGRAM FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1. THE VICE PRESIDENT, DAVID AARON AND I MET THIS MORNING WITH SARBANES, BRADEMAS AND ROSENTHAL. I REPORTED ON MY DISCUSSIONS IN TURKEY, TRYING TO STRESS THE POINTS IN THE PACKAGE WHICH ARE FAVORABLE FROM THE GREEK STANDPOINT. WE URGED THEM TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND REGARDING THE MATTER UNTIL THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR CYPRUS WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE VICE PRESIDENT STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS AS WE HAVE HAD IN THE PAST. HE STRESSED THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, WE MIGHT ALL END UP ON THE SAME SIDE OF THIS ISSUE.

2. UNQUESTIONABLY SARBANES AND BRADEMAS WILL FEEL THE NEED TO CRITICIZE OUR PROPOSALS AND CHALLENGE OUR
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STRATEGY. I HOPE THE TONE OF THEIR ATTACK MAY BE SOMEWHAT MODERATED BY THE POINTS IN THE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE FAVORABLE TO THE GREEKS AND BY THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO EVALUATE THE TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR CYPRUS.

3. THE VICE PRESIDENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD GO AHEAD AND

MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. THIS REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FULL REPORTS REGARDING OUR PROPOSALS FROM NICOSIA, ATHENS AND ELSEWHERE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT FEELS THAT WE SHOULD GET THE ANNOUNCEMENT BEHIND US. HE HAS ALSO DIRECTED THAT WE COMMENCE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND WE ARE DOING SO PROMPTLY.

4. WITH YOUR APPROVAL, WE WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT ABOUT 4:00 P.M. TODAY. THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE

DRAFT STATEMENT ON U.S. PROGRAM FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY HAVE AGREED THAT THE FOUR YEAR \$1 BILLION DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, SIGNED ON MARCH 25, 1976, BUT NEVER APPROVED BY EITHER THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS OR THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT, WILL BE RENEGOTIATED. NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DEFENSE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES WILL COMMENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN ORDER FURTHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
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WITH TURKEY, AND THE NATO DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ASK THE CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION TO REPEAL SECTION 620(X) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, WHICH IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY TRANSFERS TO TURKEY. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT IS REQUESTING THE CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE \$175 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) CREDITS TO TURKEY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979, THE SAME AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS FOR FY 1978. BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION NOW FACING TURKEY, THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO ASKING THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE A \$50 MILLION SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN FOR TURKEY FOR FY 1979.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM FOR TURKEY WILL BE MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK. AT THAT TIME THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ASK FOR \$5 MILLION IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR CYPRUS AND WILL RENEW ITS COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO ASK CONGRESS

TO AUTHORIZE \$140 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR FISCAL YEAR

1979 FOR GREECE, THE SAME AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS
FOR FY 1978. END TEXT. UNQUOTE. . CHRISTOPHER

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